

GOD'S MIRACLE OF MAY.

There came a message to the vine,
A whisper to the tree.
The lightning saw the secret sign
And merrily sang he,
And, like a silver string, the brook
Trembled with music sweet—
Enchanting notes in every nook
For echo to repeat.

A magic touch transformed the fields.
Greener each hour they grew
Until they shone like burnished shields
All jeweled o'er with dew.
Scattered upon the forest floor
A million bits of bloom
Breathed fragrance forth through morning's
door.

Into the day's bright room,
Then led by God the vine confessed
The secret it had heard.
And in the leaves the azure breast
Sang the delightful word.
Glad flowers upraised and the grass
And flung their banners gay,
And suddenly it came to pass—
God's miracle of May!

—F. D. Sherman in Ladies' Home Journal

Lottery for the British Museum.

Few people know that the British museum owes its first ways and means to the proceeds of a public lottery. Professor Sir E. Maude Thompson, in Leisure Hour, tells that this was so. In 1753 an act was passed entitled "An act for the purchase of the museum or collection of Sir Hans Sloane and of the Harleian collection of manuscripts and for providing one general repository for the better reception and more convenient use of the said collections and of the Cottonian library and of the additions thereto." The sum of £20,000 was to be paid for the Sloane collection and £10,000 for the Harleian manuscripts. The Cottonian library was already public property. A sum of £300,000 was to be raised by a public lottery, and 100,000 tickets were to be issued at 3s each. Out of the funds thus obtained the sum of £200,000 was to be allotted as prizes, and the remaining £100,000, after defraying the expenses of the lottery, was to be applied to the purposes of the act, the sum of £30,000 being set aside and invested for the payment of salaries of officers and servants, the custody of the collections and the future repairs of the buildings. What would be thought and said of raising the wind for any national institution by such means nowadays?

The Plague of Locusts in Africa.

Three plagues have visited this part of the country in recent years—first, of mice, which ate up the roots of the rice and maize; then came the cattle plague, which attacked herds both wild and domestic and killed all the buffaloes, and now the locusts. As I returned from Kopa-Kopa an immense cloud of locusts were darkening the air. They sped along at the rate of four miles an hour, settling on every patch of maize, millet or sorghum. All the natives were out, old and young, beating drums, shouting, rushing here and there and beating crops with switches to drive the pests away. In spite of their efforts the crops will be destroyed. The natives are very careless about the future. Knowing well that they are always subject to locusts, they do not take the precaution to grow manioc, which locusts do not eat.—Diary of the Late E. J. Glave in Century.

He Told Him.

On a recent Sunday evening in Belfast, Me., a young man in church looked frequently at his watch during the sermon. Just as he was doing so for the fourth or fifth time the pastor, with great earnestness, was urging the truth upon the conscience of his hearers. "Young man," said he, "how is it with you?" Whereupon the young man with the gold repeater bawled out, in the hearing of nearly the whole congregation, "A quarter past 8!" As may be supposed, the gravity of the assembly was very much disturbed by the occurrence.—New York Tribune.

Herkomer Knew Poverty.

Hubert Herkomer recently told a class of English art students some entertaining anecdotes of his own student days in Paris and of his early struggles against poverty. His studio cost him \$2 a week, and he cooked his meals, while the Trinity of the studio, to quote the painter's own words, "sometimes lit the artist's fire, tidied his room and was a true friend." Professor Herkomer was on long intimate terms with poverty. When his "Chelsea Pensioners," his first signal success, was accepted, he "fell on his knees and wept."

In 40 olympiads there were four different kinds of years: (1) a common year of 364 days; (2) the embolismic year of 384 days; (3) the last year of each alternate olympiad consisted of 387 days; (4) the last year of each fortieth olympiad of 387 days.

Carpets drawn very tight when laid upon the floor furnish a tolerable barometer. When a storm is about to break, the threads contract with such force as sometimes to tear the fabric or draw out the tacks.

The first temperance society in the United States was organized in Saratoga, in 1808.

Greece has 490,000 women over 20 years of age.

SCIENCE OF GROWING FAT.

Obesity Easy to Explain, but Very Hard to Prevent.

Dr. Edgar Thompson translates from L'Union Med. for The Medical Review the following as to the cause of obesity: As a general rule, obesity is more frequent in cold climates than in hot. The inhabitants of the extreme north are very fat from the great absorption of fatty foods, oils, etc. This superabundance of food with the increasing use of alcohol and a more indoor life is favorable to the production of fat. The inhabitants of the torrid zone, who live on a scant fruit diet and exercise constantly in the open air, rarely fatten.

All authorities agree that alimentation plays a strong role in obesity, but the opinions as to the particular foods are not unanimous. In the normal nutrition the fats introduced in the alimentary canal are broken up into glycerin and fatty acids, and the greater part is oxidized in the organism, body heat resulting from the combustion. The small amount which escapes immediate combustion accumulates in the various tissues and constitutes a reserve which can be utilized when the supply of fat from without fails. If the amount of foods is superabundant, or if their oxidation is incomplete, the equilibrium will be lost, and the fat will accumulate in the cellular tissues, causing obesity.

The inordinate use of albuminoids can contribute to obesity. Lean meat glutons get fat. In the physiology of nutrition the albuminoids can be transformed into derivatives identical with fats and hydrocarbons. These fatty bodies arise when more albuminoids are present than can be completely oxidized into urea, etc. The surplus is completely oxidized into the fats.

Fat can also be formed from hydrocarbons (sugars). One part is oxidized in the organism, while the rest is transformed into fat (Lieber). Selon Bouznitz explains the formation of fat in connection with hydrocarbons in a different way. He suggests that the hydrocarbons are not changed into fat at all; but, being more easily oxidized than the fat in foods, they will be taken up for combustion in preference to the latter, and all of the ingested fat will therefore accumulate unchanged, producing obesity.

The author concludes that all kinds of foods can produce fat. Beverages can influence the depositing of fat. It is generally admitted that water taken in large amounts favors corpulence. Dances treatment of obesity is to limit the water drunk by the patient. The alcoholic obese is proverbial. Alcohol causes the accumulation of fat by limiting its oxidation. The alcohol acts as an easily combustible food and displaces the fatty foods by reason of its greater affinity for oxygen. This habit can be a cause of obesity.

Lack of muscular exercise hinders the oxidation of the fats as well as the other nutritive metamorphoses. Sedentary habits have a similar effect. In the female, obesity has a close connection with certain phases of genital life. Some women fatten immediately after marriage, others become obese after pregnancy, others still after the menopause.

Frequently obesity develops from an accidental cause. Change from an active to a sedentary life promotes it. Sometimes it occurs after an acute febrile disease, as pneumonia and typhoid fever. All these nutritive changes which hinder the oxidation of fats promote obesity.

Racine at School.

Racine's first schooling was at the College of Beauvais, from about 1651 to 1655, after which he went to one of the famous schools of Port Royal, where he remained until 1658. Jean was an apt pupil and appears to have shown at an early age a great love of ancient literature, especially the Greek, which he cultivated sedulously all his days. Few anecdotes of his youth are worth repeating. The only one that remains in the memory is that of his master, Lancelot, finding him reading a Greek book which had for its theme not theology, but earthly love.

The master was scandalized and burned the book. Racine procured a second copy, which also went into the fire. Still unyielding, the boy obtained a third copy, which he read and afterward presented to the master. This, too, he said, might be burned, for he knew it by heart. The masters at Port Royal were perhaps easily scandalized, but they were humane and long suffering. If Racine had been under Busby, the story would not have been so smooth.—Macmillan's Magazine.

Middle.

He—'I don't understand it. Harriet and Percy only married 1½ years, and she wants a divorce. Has he been ugly to her or the baby?'

She—'No; it's incompatibility. You know Percy is extremely tall and Harriet is short. They look so ridiculous on a tandem that she can't endure it.—Detroit Free Press

QUEER MARINE CREATURES.

Caught Off Galveston; Smithsonian Institution Asked to Classify It.

There is on exhibition in Galveston one of the queerest fish known to students of that form of life. It was caught by a sailor on one of the Gulf fisheries schooners off the banks of Campeachy and brought to Galveston. The fish is about three feet long, a foot wide, and weighs twenty-three pounds. It is the first of its kind ever seen in that section, and mariners who have traveled and fished all over the South Gulf of Mexico never saw anything like it. The description of it seems to include that of at least four other species of sea inhabitants.

The tail is very much like that of a jack fish, while the fins on the back are very similar to those of a tarpon. The first three bones of the back fin extend a great distance, and finally grow smaller into mere hairs. The scales are of the exact representation of those of the red snapper abounding in the waters near Galveston. The inside of the mouth has much of the formation of the mouth of a drum fish, but the exterior works on the plan of a telescope, and looks exactly like the snout of a pig. The mouth contains a large fleshy tongue, for all the world like the tongue of a human being.

The fish has two separate rows of teeth, approximately fifty in each of the jaws. From the upper jaw three extend downward three tusks on the order of a bear in miniature, while from the lower jaw two or more of the teeth dovetail into the openings left between those in the upper jaw.

The turks are one inch in length. Over the gills a bony formation grows which very much resembles the formation of a part of the tail.

It is the largest perhaps of all is the color of the fish. The tail and back fins are black and white streaked, while the greatest part of the body is of the peculiar color of the red snapper. Just in front of the gills is a spot of yellow.

A number of authorities on fish have examined the strange creature which some of them declare is not a fish but a strange marine creature. The specimen is being preserved and a full description and picture of the fish have been forwarded to the Smithsonian Institution. Whether it is a freak of nature or a specimen of a new and unheard of fish none of the local authorities is willing to decide, but the majority is inclined to accept as a new specimen because it is perfectly formed and has no other fish resembling the one in the collection.

An Unusual Tale of the Sea.

There is a tale told of a fish which was caught by a sailor on one of the Gulf fisheries schooners off the banks of Campeachy and brought to Galveston. The fish is about three feet long, a foot wide, and weighs twenty-three pounds. It is the first of its kind ever seen in that section, and mariners who have traveled and fished all over the South Gulf of Mexico never saw anything like it. The description of it seems to include that of at least four other species of sea inhabitants.

The tail is very much like that of a jack fish, while the fins on the back are very similar to those of a tarpon. The first three bones of the back fin extend a great distance, and finally grow smaller into mere hairs. The scales are of the exact representation of those of the red snapper abounding in the waters near Galveston. The inside of the mouth has much of the formation of the mouth of a drum fish, but the exterior works on the plan of a telescope, and looks exactly like the snout of a pig. The mouth contains a large fleshy tongue, for all the world like the tongue of a human being.

The fish has two separate rows of teeth, approximately fifty in each of the jaws. From the upper jaw three extend downward three tusks on the order of a bear in miniature, while from the lower jaw two or more of the teeth dovetail into the openings left between those in the upper jaw.

The turks are one inch in length. Over the gills a bony formation grows which very much resembles the formation of a part of the tail. It is the largest perhaps of all is the color of the fish. The tail and back fins are black and white streaked, while the greatest part of the body is of the peculiar color of the red snapper. Just in front of the gills is a spot of yellow. A number of authorities on fish have examined the strange creature which some of them declare is not a fish but a strange marine creature. The specimen is being preserved and a full description and picture of the fish have been forwarded to the Smithsonian Institution. Whether it is a freak of nature or a specimen of a new and unheard of fish none of the local authorities is willing to decide, but the majority is inclined to accept as a new specimen because it is perfectly formed and has no other fish resembling the one in the collection.

Plenty of Room for Cotton.

The South can increase and will increase her cotton production not only by more intelligent selection of seed, not only by improving the fertility of her soil by every scientific and available method, not only by the improvement of the intelligence and skill of her laborers, not only by the use of more and more improved agricultural machinery, but by the opening up of new lands to give employment to thousands who are coming from other sections, as well as to our fast increasing population.

To realize the vast possibilities for expansion along this line one has only to examine the census report, that shows that less than 50 per cent of the farm lands of the South are improved. The report shows that in Mississippi only 41.6 per cent of the farm land is improved; in North Carolina, only 36.6 per cent; in South Carolina, only 41.3 per cent; in Georgia, only 40.2 per cent; in Alabama, only 41.8 per cent; in Florida, only 34.1 per cent; in Louisiana, only 42.2 per cent; in Texas, only 15.6 per cent; in Arkansas, only 41.1 per cent, and in Tennessee, only 50. per cent.

By opening up this undeveloped territory, almost every acre of which is good cotton land, the South's ability to indefinitely expand her cotton production cannot be questioned, and therefore the alarm about a sufficient cotton supply in the future should be permanently dismissed.—Southern Farm Magazine.

Four Islesboro, Me., men who happened to be together in a store the other day got on the scales and the combined weight of the four was 1155 pounds.

GOOD OLD TIMES.

A Study of Actual Conditions in Former Periods Destroys Glamour.

"Good old times" is a popular subject. There probably were good old times and there probably were bad old times. Good and bad were doubtless mixed in about the same proportion then as now. If there is any difference there is perhaps now more good and less bad. The world has spells of riotous living, extravagance and artificiality, but it has spasms of morality, reform and economy, very much as the stock market has periods of inflation and panic even though the permanent trend of values is higher.

Just as there men who live so extremely in the present time they have no patience with the past, there are those who quarrel with everything that is and laud everything that was.

In the current Fortnightly Review a writer is so much dissatisfied with the world generally and society specifically that he would turn back the hands of the clock to the days of Louis XVI. It may be that the writer has an intimate personal acquaintance with society today as of the days of Louis XVI, but there is some doubt about this. He says:

Ten thousand people in the days of Louis XVI were housed under the roof at Versailles during the royal fetes. Let us assume that, take it all around, three servants waited on each. What hostess or host of today could make anything but a hurly burly out of over 2,000 guests.

For shame upon the hostess or host of today who could not give a little dinner party to 2,000 guests with 6,000 or 8,000 servants to wait upon them! We have so decayed in the art of wholesale hospitality that a good many housewives would have to borrow a few spoons, cups, plates and chairs from the neighbors to entertain a cozy, sociable little bunch of 2,000 guests attended by 6,000 or 8,000 servants.

The magazine writer says "they were the flower of an old and noble civilization." A good deal of foolishness has been written about this "old and noble civilization." Much of it was founded in brigandage, rapine, and in unwise and unfair taxation. The beneficiaries of the loot and their descendants refined themselves by soft living and good food and called themselves cultured because they learned to play the lute, dance the minuet and wear a powdered wig.

The Fortnightly Review writer becomes positively indignant at the American millionaire who buys pictures, books and tapestries. It is likely that some rich persons buy these things without proper appreciation of them, but a very good way to learn appreciation of them is to own them. The very fact that a man is willing to be extravagant for these things indicates that he appreciates them in some way or somehow.

It is useless to blame the American millionaire. He is here to stay. Every sane American who can become a millionaire is going to do so. The average American millionaire is a good fellow. He may in some of his types be a little loud in his clothes, a little bolsterous about the mouth or a little strutting in his walk. He may smack his lips at table and in rare instances eat with his knife, but he is more of a man than the pale, snappy, languid creature who, because he had a hardworking grandpa, never created a dollar's worth of value, never invented a machine or a process, never thought of a way to direct the energies of other men, never dug for gold or iron—never did anything but sit around with the ladies, talk nice and look neat.

When a poor man by hustling makes a million dollars, it is almost a certainty that in addition to the factor of luck he has brain and will power and grit.—Washington Star.

STATELY VERSE.

If Mary goes far out to sea,
By wayward breezes fanned,
I'd like to know—can you tell me?—
Just where would Maryland?

If Tenny went high up in air
And looked o'er land and lea,
Looked here and there and every-
where,

Pray, what would Tennessee?
I looked out of the window and
Saw Orry on the lawn;
He's not there now, and who can tell
Just where has Oregon?

Two girls were quarrelling one day
With garden tools, and so
I said, "My dears, let Mary rake
And just let Idaho."

A friend of mine lived in a flat
With half a dozen boys;
When he fell ill I asked him why,
He said: "I'm Illinois."

An English lady had a steed,
She called him Ishland Bay,
She rode for exercise, and thus
Rhode Island every day.

—Life.

Thirty Thousand Dry Goods Stores. In the United States there are about thirty thousand shops that sell dry goods. Twelve thousand of these may be ranked as good stores, and about five thousand are establishments of a size which makes them important factors in the commercial and domestic life of their communities. The owners of almost all of these shops, the largest as well as the smallest, began obscurely. The majority of the most prosperous have attained their present success and magnitude during recent years, in which unsuccessful merchants have been wont to complain that the competition has been ruinous.—From "Success."

HANDLING BURGLARS.

Some Suggestions in the Gentle Art—Advantages of the Editha Method.

A good way to handle a burglar is the Editha method, as outlined in the little one act play which had so much vogue here a few years ago, having been dramatized from Mrs. Burnett's story. All you have to do is to keep a 9-year-old girl in the house. She must have golden hair and appear to the burglar in her nightdress, saying to him in reassuring tones: "Don't be afraid. I won't hurt you." Then he will say, "Well, I'll be doggoned," and will enter into conversation with the child, the result being that he will find her to be his own daughter whom he has deserted years ago. On an easel will be a picture of his wife whom he left, and then his heart will be softened. He will leave the little girl a knife and fork and a spoon and will leave without disturbing you, carrying away nothing but \$2,000 in silver, several hundred dollars' worth of jewelry and a grand piano, merely as a memento of how his better nature came to the front and made a man of him.

Of course if you have no 9-year-old ex-child of the burglar in the house you will have to resort to other methods, but the above is the gentlest I can think of. If you wake up suddenly with the flash of a bullseye lantern in your face and feel the cold muzzle of a revolver at your temple while a hoarse voice says, "Make a sound, and I'll blow your brains out," a good thing to do is to clap the burglar on the back and say: "Go ahead, old man. My wife says I haven't brains enough to last overnight, and I would like to show her that she is wrong."

That will disconcert him for a moment, and you can then take him down stairs and set out a good supper for him. Then show him where everything is, help him pack it up, and you will be all right.

Some men keep a pistol in the house for the purpose of shooting burglars, but the burglars usually take the pistol first. Then a man has only his fists. Now, if I should wake up some night and see a burglar in the house I know that I should burst into peals of laughter, for it would be a good joke. The burglar might not see the point at first, but he would later and would realize that the laugh was on him. But if by chance there should be anything in the house worth taking and I should see two masked men bending over my couch I would merely knock their heads together until they were insensible, then tie them together into double knots and drop them down the elevator shaft. That is what most men would do when awakened from a sound sleep in the dead of night, and I may say that my language is merely symbolic of crawling under the bedclothes and making myself as small as possible until my visitors had gone.—Boston Home Journal.

THE BILL ONAIRE.

A man of great holdings, one night when a
Picked up at the moon in the sky,
And begged of his parents to give him the
That glinted so brightly on high.
Of course it was only a moon, for the
For the moon wasn't made for the child
And when he was older he'd like to be
In asking a favor would
So, rather than beg for the silver moon,
Which captured his father's at birth,
He modestly strives for the things that are
And now all he wants is the earth.
—John C. Sargent.
—Harper's Spoken, May.

"Badger," in its suggestion of never giving up as well associated with the present Governor of the State of Wisconsin. Naturalists describe that animal as one which is harmless if not abused, but which becomes obstinately "wild" once provoked and after a brief rest is ready for another struggle. This is certainly descriptive of the Governor, whom the people in their affection delight to call "Badger."—Harper Weekly, on Alma Lyceum course, Tuesday evening, Dec. 13.

Dr. Weaver's Syrup and Cerate.
Successful treatment for blood and skin diseases.

FOLEY'S KIDNEY AND TAR
Takes the poisons out of the blood.

DeWitt's Little Early Risers
The famous little pills.

A MATTER OF HEALTH

ROYAL
BAKING
POWDER
Absolutely Pure
HAS NO SUBSTITUTE

Roomy Apparel.
A restaurant cook arrested for stealing provisions in London was found to have "concealed on his person" three apples, a shoulder of mutton, a pound of butter, a pound of sausages, half a pound of jam and a package of cocoa.

Shot Himself.
Plainwell, Nov. 12.—John Havens, aged 63, committed suicide by shooting himself through the temple. He was a prominent harnessmaker and implement dealer. He leaves a widow and son. Havens was injured last spring by a falling roof and suffered a shaky since.

O-PINE SALVE cures PILES
and nothing else. 50 cents

Fine Photos

Dear People:—

I have a fine new line of small goldframes for cabinet photos. They will not tarnish and range from 75c to \$3.00 in price. I also have a full line of photo mounts and material. Call and see my samples.

Yours Truly,

G. EARLE PORTER

PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIO

Alma, - Mich.

THE EDITOR'S WIFE

Letter from an Illinois Newspaper Man that is Well Worth Reading.

As a usual thing editors save the good things for their lambs of their own newspapers, but the following letter from S. H. Duncan, editor of the Seaton, Ill., Independent, shows that there is at least one editor who wants to help others. He writes as follows:

To the editor of the Record: I wish you would print the following and thus help me to do a kindness to your readers. My wife has been a great sufferer with stomach troubles for the past four years, and the last two years practically an invalid. A thing seemed to help her until I procured a box of Mio-n-a, nature's cure for dyspepsia. I gave her one upon relief that she continued using the remedy until now she enjoys her meals, is relieved from all pain in her stomach and has increased in flesh.

I hope you will publish this letter, for I think there is no remedy for stomach trouble equal to Mio-n-a, and the more wide spread its use becomes, the more good will be done to humanity.

S. H. DUNCAN.

Editor of Independent.

Care, Rhodes is the local agency for Mio-n-a and has faith in its merits as Editor Duncan's. He in fact, offers to pay for Mio-n-a himself in any case where it does not give satisfaction. No strong endorsement of the merits of the remedy can be given than this, that a local drug firm is willing to send a medicine on its own guarantee to refund the money if it does not cure stomach troubles and increase flesh.

Are You Interested in the South?

DO YOU CARE TO KNOW OF THE MARVELOUS DEVELOPMENT NOW GOING ON IN

The Great Central South?

OF INNUMERABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG MEN OR OLD ONES—TO GROW RICH?

Do you want to know about rich farming lands, fertile, well located, on a Trunk Line Railroad, which will produce two, three, and four crops from the same field each year, and which can be purchased at very low prices and on easy terms? About stock raising where the extreme of winter feeding is but six short weeks? Of places where truck growing and fruit raising yield enormous returns each year? Of a land where you can live out of doors every day in the year? Of opportunities in establishing profitable manufacturing industries; of rich mineral locations, and splendid business openings?

If you want to know the details of any or all of these, write me. I will gladly advise you fully and truthfully.

G. A. PARK General Immigration and Industrial Agent

Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company
LOUISVILLE, KY.